

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-67, all of the claims in the application, as filed, as constituted by the verified translation of PCT/EP2004/053457. Please also cancel claims 1-65 as submitted by KBA under Article 34 on March 22, 2005.

Please add new claims 68-129, as follows.

Claims 1-67 (Cancelled)

68. (New) A printing blanket adapted to be secured on a transfer cylinder of a printing press comprising:

a dimensionally stable support plate having plate ends engageable with the transfer cylinder and made of metal;

a coating on said support plate, said coating having a coating outer surface constituting an outer shell face of the transfer cylinder, said support plate and said coating constituting a printing blanket unit;

first and second spaced ends of said printing blanket in a circumferential direction of the transfer cylinder; and

a depression in said printing blanket intermediate said first and second spaced ends of said support plate, said depression being formed as a redirection of a thickness of said printing blanket.

69. (New) The printing blanket of claim 68 wherein said support plate is steel.

70. (New) The printing blanket of claim 68 wherein said coating is rubber.
71. (New) The printing blanket of claim 70 wherein said rubber is multi-layered.
72. (New) The printing blanket of claim 68 wherein said coating has a ground surface.
73. (New) The printing blanket of claim 68 wherein said printing blanket has a blanket length in said circumferential direction of the transfer cylinder and said depression has a depression width in said circumferential direction, said depression width being 0.1% to 1% of said blanket length.
74. (New) The printing blanket of claim 68 wherein said depression is dimensionally stable.
75. (New) A method for producing a printing blanket for use with a transfer cylinder of a printing press including:
- providing a dimensionally stable metal support plate having a thickness;
 - providing a coating on said support plate and having a coating outer face constituting an outer shell face of the transfer cylinder, said coating and said support plate constituting a printing blanket unit;
 - providing first and second support plate ends and spacing said first and second ends in a circumferential direction of the transfer cylinder; and

forming a depression in said printing blanket intermediate said first and second plate ends by reducing said thickness of said printing blanket.

76. (New) The method of claim 75 further including providing a die and using said die for stamping-in said depression.

77. (New) The method of claim 75 further including forming said depression prior to applying said printing blanket to the transfer cylinder.

78. (New) The method of claim 75 further including providing an upper die and a lower die and using said upper die and said lower die for forming said depression.

79. (New) The method of claim 75 further including forming said depression in said support plate prior to applying said printing blanket to the transfer cylinder.

80. (New) The method of claim 75 further including applying said coating to the support plate and deforming said support plate after applying said coating.

81. (New) The printing blanket of claim 68 wherein said depression has a depth between 0.1 mm and 0.5 mm.

82. (New) The printing blanket of claim 81 wherein said depth is between 0.2 mm and 0.3 mm.

83. (New) The printing blanket of claim 68 wherein said depression has a sweep of 0 mm to 1 mm.

84. (New) The printing blanket of claim 68 wherein said depression has a depression width of 3 mm to 8 mm.

85. (New) The method of claim 75 further including providing a transfer cylinder depression on the transfer cylinder and applying said printing blanket to said transfer cylinder and aligning said printing blanket depression and said transfer cylinder depression.

86. (New) The method of claim 85 further including providing said transfer cylinder depression by cutting a barrel of the transfer cylinder.

87. (New) The method of claim 85 further including providing an underlayer on the transfer cylinder and forming said transfer cylinder depression in said underlayer.

88. (New) The method of claim 75 further including arranging two of said printing blankets in an axial direction of the transfer cylinder.

89. (New) The method of claim 88 further including arranging said depressions in said two axially arranged printing blankets.

90. (New) The method of claim 75 further including providing a plate cylinder cooperating with the transfer cylinder and providing a transfer cylinder circumference as a whole number multiple of a circumference of said plate cylinder.

91. (New) The method of claim 90 further including providing a printing plate on said circumference of said plate cylinder.

92. (New) The method of claim 91 further including providing four of said printing plates in an axial direction of said plate cylinder.

93. (New) The method of claim 90 further including providing a dampening system and assigning said dampening system to said plate cylinder.

94. (New) A method for producing a printing blanket, adapted to be applied to a transfer cylinder in a printing press, including:

providing a dimensionally-stable support plate;

providing a coating on said support plate, said coating and said support plate constituting a printing blanket unit; and

providing a depression in said support plate before applying said printing blanket unit to the transfer cylinder.

95. (New) The method of claim 94 further including providing a die and using said die for deforming said support plate.

96. (New) The method of claim 94 further including providing an upper die and a lower die and deforming said support plate using said upper die and said lower die.
97. (New) The method of claim 94 further including deforming said coating.
98. (New) A printing group of a printing press not having a dampening unit, said printing group comprising:
- a plate cylinder;
 - at least first and second waterless planographic printing plates arranged in a circumferential direction of said plate cylinder;
 - a transfer cylinder cooperating with said plate cylinder;
 - a printing blanket on a circumferential surface of said transfer cylinder;
 - a printing blanket end receiving opening on said circumferential surface of said transfer cylinder, said opening being located opposite a first set of ends of said first and second printing plates;
 - a depression in said printing blanket, said depression being located opposite a second set of ends of said first and second printing plates; and
 - a metal support plate supporting said printing blanket.
99. (New) The printing group of claim 98 wherein two of said printing blankets are arranged side-by-side in an axial direction of said transfer cylinder.
100. (New) The printing group of claim 98 wherein said depression extends in an axial

direction of said transfer cylinder.

101. (New) The printing group of claim 98 further including a coating on said support plate of said printing blanket, said coating constituting a shell face of said transfer cylinder.

102. (New) The printing group of claim 98 further including a multi-layer coating on each said printing plate, said coating including a lower layer and an upper layer.

103. (New) The printing group of claim 102 wherein said lower layer is an ink-absorbing material and said upper layer is an ink-repelling material.

104. (New) The printing group of claim 103 wherein said ink-repelling material includes silicon.

105. (New) The printing group of claim 103 wherein said upper layer is discontinuous.

106. (New) The printing group of claim 102 wherein said upper layer overlies said lower layer in areas of a print image not to be printed.

107. (New) The printing group of claim 98 further including spaced first and second ends of said printing blanket, said depression being formed by a distance between said spaced first and second printing blanket ends.

108. (New) The printing group of claim 107 wherein said depression is parallel to a longitudinal axis of said transfer cylinder.

109. (New) The printing group of claim 98 wherein said depression is a groove formed in said printing blanket.

110. (New) The printing group of claim 98 further including a coating of said printing blanket and wherein said depression is a groove formed in said coating.

111. (New) The printing group of claim 110 wherein a depth of said groove is between 5% and 10% of a thickness of said coating.

112. (New) The printing group of claim 101 wherein said coating includes first and second coating ends and wherein said depression is a groove centered between said first and second coating ends.

113. (New) The printing group of claim 98 wherein said depression has a depression width and said printing blanket has a printing blanket length, both in a circumferential diameter of said transfer cylinder, said depression width being 0.1% to 1.0% of said printing blanket length.

114. (New) The printing group of claim 98 wherein said metal support plate is sheet metal.

115. (New) The printing group of claim 98 wherein said metal support plate is steel.

116. (New) The printing group of claim 101 wherein said coating is rubber.

117. (New) The printing group of claim 116 wherein said rubber coating is a multi-layer rubber material.

118. (New) The printing group of claim 101 wherein said coating has a ground surface.

119. (New) The printing group of claim 98 further including an underlayer between said printing blanket and said circumferential surface of said transfer cylinder, said underlayer including an underlayer depression.

120. (New) The printing group of claim 98 further including a plurality of said printing blankets arranged axially side by side on said transfer cylinder.

121. (New) The printing group of claim 98 wherein each said waterless planographic printing plate extends axially the length of said plate cylinder.

122. (New) The printing group of claim 98 wherein a plurality of said waterless planographic printing plates are arranged axially side by side on said plate cylinder.

123. (New) The printing group of claim 98 wherein a size of each said waterless planographic printing plate corresponds to a newspaper page.

124. (New) The printing group of claim 98 further including temperature control means for at least one of said plate cylinder and said transfer cylinder.

125. (New) The printing group of claim 124 wherein said temperature control means is an interior temperature control means.

126. (New) The printing group of claim 125 wherein said interior temperature control means includes heat carrier circulating conduits.

127. (New) The printing group of claim 126 wherein said heat carrier circulating conduits are adapted to receive a fluid.

128. (New) The printing group of claim 124 wherein said temperature control means senses a circumferential speed of said at least one of said plate cylinder and said transfer cylinder.

129. (New) The printing group of claim 122 wherein said plate cylinder includes plate end receiving openings aligned in an axial direction of said plate cylinder.